

0221

SECRET

Interview of [Robert F. Krandle,]
3/27/78 by Dan Hardway

Mr. [Krandle] said that he understood the release letter and had no questions about it.

Mr. [Krandle] said that he had been assigned to Mexico City from [mid 1963 to mid]
5 1965.] He could not remember the precise dates but thinks that he was in Mexico prior to September 1963. (A. Goodpasture says he arrived in [September 1963;] see summary of CI Soft File.)

Mr. [Krandle] was assigned to Mexico specifically to work on the Cuban Operations. or, as he called it, "task force". There were 3 people on this task force and this was unusual in that normally there was only one person in a station working on a particular target. The reason for the extra people was

221

SECRET

THIS COPY IS NOT
FOR RELEASE.

that ~~they wanted~~^{THERE WAS} heavy coverage on Cuban targets on a priority basis.

Mr. Krandle was the junior officer on the Cuban task force. His primary duty involved what he called "third country operations." This mainly consisted of recruiting, training and debriefing people from 3rd countries travelling to Cuba. Krandle also handled three exile agents: one who helped him in propaganda placement; one who had access to Cubana Airlines personnel; and one who had access to Cuban Embassy personnel.

Mr. Krandle said that he was aware of the Cuban Embassy surveillance operation but knows no details. He said that he thought Anne Goodpasture ran the photo operation and said that he does not know

who ran the telephone operation.] At this point Mr. Krandle commented that the Mexican Station was a remarkably compartmentalized station and that Min Scott was fanatic about it.

Mr. Krandle said that he had never heard of Lee Harvey Oswald before the assassination.

Mr. Krandle stated that he does remember seeing transcripts from the Cuban Embassy telephone operation.] They would be routed to him from Phillips via Shaw.] He does not know who Phillips got them from.

Mr. Krandle said that he was Deputy Mexican Branch Chief in 1972. He said that after Scott retired a Headquarters team "blended and melted down" Scott's files. The material retained was put on microfiche.

SECRET

0224

Mr. Krandle said that Win Scott was a "very unusual character... he exuded power. When you were in his presence you knew who was boss"

[Krandle] said that Scott used the "brute force approach" in his filing system, everything was collected. The system was bulky but [Krandle] said, "foolproof." [Krandle] said that Scott would brag about the quick retrieval that his system allowed him. [Krandle] said that legend has it that Scott did not deign to communicate with his division chief but went straight to the top level of agency officials.

Mr. [Krandle] said that he had been very impressed with [Barbara] [Manell]. He said she was bright, sharp, competent, and had a reputation in the station for thoroughness.

SECRET

224

SECRET

[Robert Shaw] was the chief of Cuban Operations when [Krandle] arrived in Mexico. ~~After~~ About one month after his arrival Dave Phillips took over as chief of Cuban Operations.

[Krandle] said that Phillips had nothing to do with the surveillance operations.

[Krandle] said that he believed that the support people ran the Cuban surveillance operation. He said that [Robert Feldman] was the support chief.

SECRET